

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/882,044
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q64883

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant herein attaches a set of Replacement Sheets. In the Drawings filed on June 18, 2001, certain legends in Figure 1 were somewhat obscured. Applicant is filing Replacement Drawings so as to show the legends more clearly.

Attachment: Four (4) Replacement Sheets

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REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Patent Office for acknowledging Applicant's claim to foreign priority, and for indicating that the certified copy of the priority document, European Patent Application No. 00401853.7 dated June 20, 2000, has been made of record in the file.

Applicant thanks the Patent Office for initialing the references listed on the PTO-1449 form submitted with the Information Disclosure Statement filed on June 18, 2001, thereby confirming that the listed references have been considered.

Claims 1-7 have been examined on their merits.

Applicant herein cancels claim 2 without prejudice and/or disclaimer.

Applicant herein amends claim 1 with the recitations of cancelled claim 2.

Applicant herein editorially amends claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 to remove callouts and to remove awkward language. The amendments to claims 3, 4, 6 and 7 were not made for reasons of patentability, do not narrow the literal scope of the claims and thus, do not implicate an estoppel in the application of the doctrine of equivalents.

Applicant herein adds new claims 8-21. Support for new claims 8-21 can be found in the originally filed specification and claims. Entry and consideration of the new claims 8-21 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-21 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q64883

1. Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (2nd para.) as allegedly being indefinite. The rejection of claim 2 is now moot due to its cancellation. Applicant traverses the § 112 (2nd para.) rejection of claims 1 and 3-7 for at least the reasons discussed below.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 5 to remove the errors indicated by the Patent Office.¹ Applicant submits that the § 112 (2nd para.) rejection of claims 1 and 3-7 has been overcome, and respectfully requests withdrawal of same.

2. Claims 1-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Hoshino *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,289,014). The rejection of claim 2 is now moot due to its cancellation. Applicant traverses the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 3-7, and insofar as the rejection might apply to new claims 8-21, for at least the reasons discussed below.

With respect to independent claim 1, Hoshino *et al.* fail to teach or suggest at least a telecommunications system that converts the H-bit header field of telecommunications cells into a set of H bits comprised of a set of R bits derived from the original H-bit header field and a set of D bits of information, wherein in H, R and D are integer numbers and the sum of R and D is less than or equal to H. In the Office Action, the Patent Office states, with reference to Figure 6 of Hoshino *et al.*, that “member 114 is a header combination means coupled to members 111 and 143.” While it is true that the header rewrite unit 114 combines data, there is no teaching or

¹ The Office Action indicates that “in claim 9, ‘said input and routing means (RTC)’ lacks antecedent basis.” Since there was not a claim 9 in the originally filed application, Applicant assumes that the Patent Office was referring to **claim 1, line 9**.

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U.S. APPLICATION NO. 09/882,044
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q64883

suggestion that it creates a new header field comprised of two types of bits, *i.e.*, revised addressing information in one field and data/control information in the other field. Specifically, Hoshino *et al.* discloses, *inter alia*, the conversion of a virtual path identifier (VPI), a virtual channel identifier (VCI) and a line identifier (TAGD) into a revised header. There is no teaching or suggestion that the conversion of the VPI/VCI/TAGD in Hoshino *et al.* creates anything beyond a revised header. There is no teaching or suggestion in Hoshino *et al.*, and the Office Action points to none, of adding information data and/or command data to the header bits that are left unused by the conversion of the VPI/VCI/TAGD bits into a revised header. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable over Hoshino *et al.*, and further submits that claims 3-7 are allowable as well, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 1. Applicant respectfully requests that the Patent Office reconsider and withdraw the § 103(a) rejection of claims 1 and 3-7.

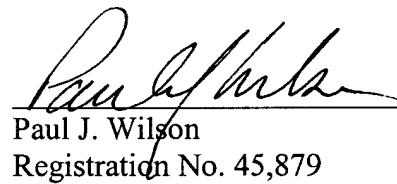
With respect to new independent claim 12, Applicant submits that claim 12 is allowable for at least reasons analogous to those discussed above with respect to claim 1. Thus, Applicant submits that claim 12 is allowable, and further submits that claims 13-21 are allowable as well, at least by virtue of their dependency from claim 12.

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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q64883

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE
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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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